

# WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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Mr David Rogers  
Woodlands Officer,  
The Forestry Commission  
South East & London  
Bucks Horn Oak  
Farnham  
GU104LS

12th December, 2017

Dear Mr Rogers,

**Re: Licence application FLA019/180/17-18 Longbury Hill Wood, Rock Road, Storrington**

Councillors considered this licence application to The Forestry Commission, at the Washington Parish Council Meeting on 11th December. They do not object to carefully controlled felling at Longbury Hill Wood, providing that effective screening is maintained at the perimeters, and that re-planting is a strict requirement. They welcomed the applicant's latest plan for retention of more protection of the boundary.

The Council recognises that the Scots pine plantation is a commercial crop, and the need to manage the woodland. However this is a large area which has been undisturbed for many years. As such, it has long been regarded by the local community as an important amenity, is visually attractive and serves as an important sound buffer for residents in Hampers Lane and adjoining lanes, both from Rock Road and the A24.

Councillors wish to emphasise that the designation of the woodland as a protected Local Green Space in the emerging Storrington, Sullington & Washington Neighbourhood Plan, is an important and significant factor. This, and the community's response to the proposed forestry and associated works, clearly demonstrates a strong desire for its preservation.

With this in mind, the Council would request a full ecological and environmental survey of the whole woodland site. If works are permitted, the Council further requests a watching brief to protect the ancient parish boundary earth bank, and ensure that the re-planting programme is robustly enforced.

Kind regards



Zoe Savill  
Clerk to Washington Parish Council